Letters to the Editor

Simple Justice

Your correspondent, Mr. Fox-Decent, appears to have an approach to the subject which has caused him to miss the point.

The profession of nursing is indeed an honorable one, but are we therefore to draw the conclusion that the members of it must be satisfied with fewer of the amenities of life than are afforded to other occupations? Has Mr. Fox-Decent considered the long period of unremunerative training, the broken hours, the heavy responsibility, and the distasteful tasks that are inseparable from nursing? Having done so, has he compared the financial rewards with those available to girls in, let us say, teaching and administrative occupations? I am sure that any such comparison will show that nurses are already sacrificing a great deal to the honor of their profession; much more, in fact, than we have any right to expect.

This situation has come about, because, in practical terms, it is impossible for nurses to strike. No matter what they may say, we can be sure that they will not, in Mr. Fox-Decent's words, "abandon the sick and suffering to shift for themselves." It is therefore no more than simple justice that they should receive the pay to which they are entitled, but which the chivalrous nature of their occupation prevents them from obtaining in the manner that others do.

ERNEST C. S. WOODCOCK.

4180 Cedar Hill Road,
R.R. 4, Victoria.

Selfless Service

The letter of T. Fox-Decent is typical of the thinking of so many people. I am not a nurse but I have, on occasion, heard the same old song about the "honor of the profession," "Lady of the Lamp" idea. So many people it seems would like to keep nurses' salaries at the level they were in the days when lamps were used.

Is a human life of more value than a piece of wood, or pipe-fittings, or any number of inanimate objects you can name? Then why should those who often have the issues of life in their hands be expected to labor for much less than those who work with inanimate objects? If the increase they ask is granted they will still be working for much less than the average laborer who has had no years of training and who has no real, vital responsibility.

It would seem to me that the time has come when the "honor of the profession" should be upheld by the general public, who are the beneficiaries of the painstaking training and selfless service of these women, many of whom go far beyond the call of duty in giving of their time and energy. Rather than a disgrace to them, I think the disgrace lies in the fact that they should be forced into a situation where demands have to be made for fair acknowledgment of services rendered.

(MISS) I. V. JENNER.

5327 Parker Avenue,
R.R. 4, Victoria.

Greedy City

New parking lots are to be made in the downtown area to encourage people to shop there. City council public works committee seems to be doing its best to discourage this.

I refer to the proposed new meters for these parking lots. Not having a visible time indicator on the meter will mean more parking tickets being issued. Not content with this, the city wants to be paid two or three times for the same space. If any union proposed increases like these there would be a big outcry.

I for one will avoid the new parking lots and shop elsewhere, if they install this type of meter.

ROSS HARTNELL.

976 Humboldt Street.

Revision of Laws

Killing a sea-lion has aroused great indignation. If it is really necessary to destroy such creatures it should be done by a proper authority, and not by the ignorant or "trigger-happy."

It is high time there was revision of our laws to provide salutary penalties for the irresponsible use of firearms whether it results in death or injury to man, animal, or bird.

(MRS.) J. W. ANDERSON.

3026 McAnally Road.

What a Meeting!

May I offer my condolence to all the "grumbling MLAs," who must share the embarrassment with Mr. Mortimore (Colonist, Feb. 18, 1959).

Here they ask for proof from Mr. Gaglardi on his remarks about "B.C. not wanting any Hoffas," and "there is no room in B.C. for gangsterism in labor." And there they have it, right in the same paper, on page 10, in headlines: "Hoffa is coming! Expected to come to B.C. in April for a meeting of the unions' western conference executive!"

Besides, what a meeting that will be—when labor's almighty Mr. Hoffa learns, that, as Mr. Gargrave (CCF, Mackenzie), a union worker, says regarding labor: "America is not B.C., and is not likely to be B.C. We think and act differently here!" (Colonist, Feb. 19, 1959.)

ANN FIBIGER.

378 Newport Avenue.

Sea Lion's Diet

Mr. Creed, a professional guide, is to be congratulated on his triumph over the sea lion.

Not only does it prove his courage and marksmanship, his respect for nature and wildlife, but it also constitutes a valuable contribution to the protection of the desirable dogfish, which, being much slower than salmon, forms a large part of a sea lion's diet.

1595 Rockland Avenue. R. M. CICCIMARA.

Ross Presents Cups

Smiling proudly, a trio of members of Esquimalt Legion juvenile football club stand with Lieutenant-Governor Frank Ross after he presented players with miniature cups in recognition of their fine record. Ceremony took place in Esquimalt Legion hall last night. Boys, from left, are Frank Lee, 12; Brian McIntyre, 12; Graeme Cowx, 11.—(Colonist photo)

Oregon to See RCN Ships

Six destroyer escorts of Pacific Command will arrive at Portland on June 9 for a six-day visit during the rose festival and international trade fair, to be held as part of the Oregon Centenial Exposition.

Defence Centre Moving

Greater Victoria civil defence headquarters will move soon from its present dismal rooms above the Public Market to a building at 1840 Blanshard.

Civil defence control board decided yesterday to rent the new building because of the approaching demolition of the market.

"I know we'll get more people in the new quarters," said director V. S. Godfrey. "Ladies especially are not keen on coming here in the evening because of the location."

The control board set arrangements for installation of powerful new 10-horsepower air-raid sirens in the urban area of Greater Victoria.

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Calling Pedologists

Lack of trained pedologists (soil scientists) in Canada and the U.S. has forced B.C. civil service commission to look for qualified persons in the Sudan and Trinidad, Agriculture Minister Newton Steacy told the legislature yesterday.

First Deficit Budget in Years

Alberta Dips Into Red Ink

EDMONTON (CP) — A deficit of $48,397,128 was forecast in the 1959-60 budget presented to the Alberta legislature last night.

Treasurer E. W. Hinman said expenditures will total $309,676,358; revenues will make up only $261,279,230.

He said in his budget speech previous budgets have indicated deficits but have included expenditures for loans which "in reality" have added to provincial reserves and have not reduced the net wealth as indicated in the budgets concerned.

"However, this year there is a very real deficit . . . the first in the province for a long time."

Mr. Hinman said it would be necessary to dip into the provincial reserves, or borrow against the reserves, in order to provide for the services and appropriations mapped out in the budget.

A major part of the deficit forecast was accounted for in the anticipation of an $11,000,000 drop in natural resources revenue.

"The depressing developments in our oil and gas industry which I mentioned in my budget address last year have not been alleviated," Mr. Hinman said.

Highlights of the budget were:

Record expenditures of $309,676,000.

An anticipated deficit of $48,397,000.

An expected drop of $11,000,000 to $100,135,000 in income from natural resources.

Abolition of the amusement tax, with an accompanying revenue loss of $425,000.

More than $72,000,000 for highways, an increase of $10,018,270.

Public debt stands at $29,152,000, with debentures worth $1,849,000 to be redeemed this year.

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Smith's Fight Fails

Former alderman Donald Smith, MLA, argued in vain before the legislature's private bills committee Thursday against a bill to change membership qualifications for Victoria's Memorial Arena Commission.

At present, the five commission members are elected by city council and must reside or own property in the city. Aldermen are excluded.

The amendment would allow residents of adjoining municipalities who are not property owners in the city to be chosen as members if eligible to have their names on the city voters' list. It also would allow one or two aldermen to be members.

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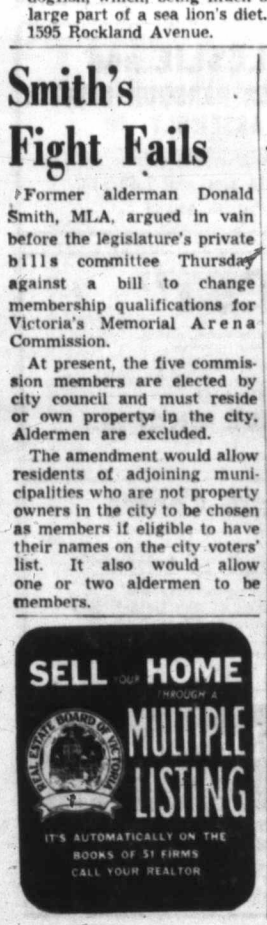

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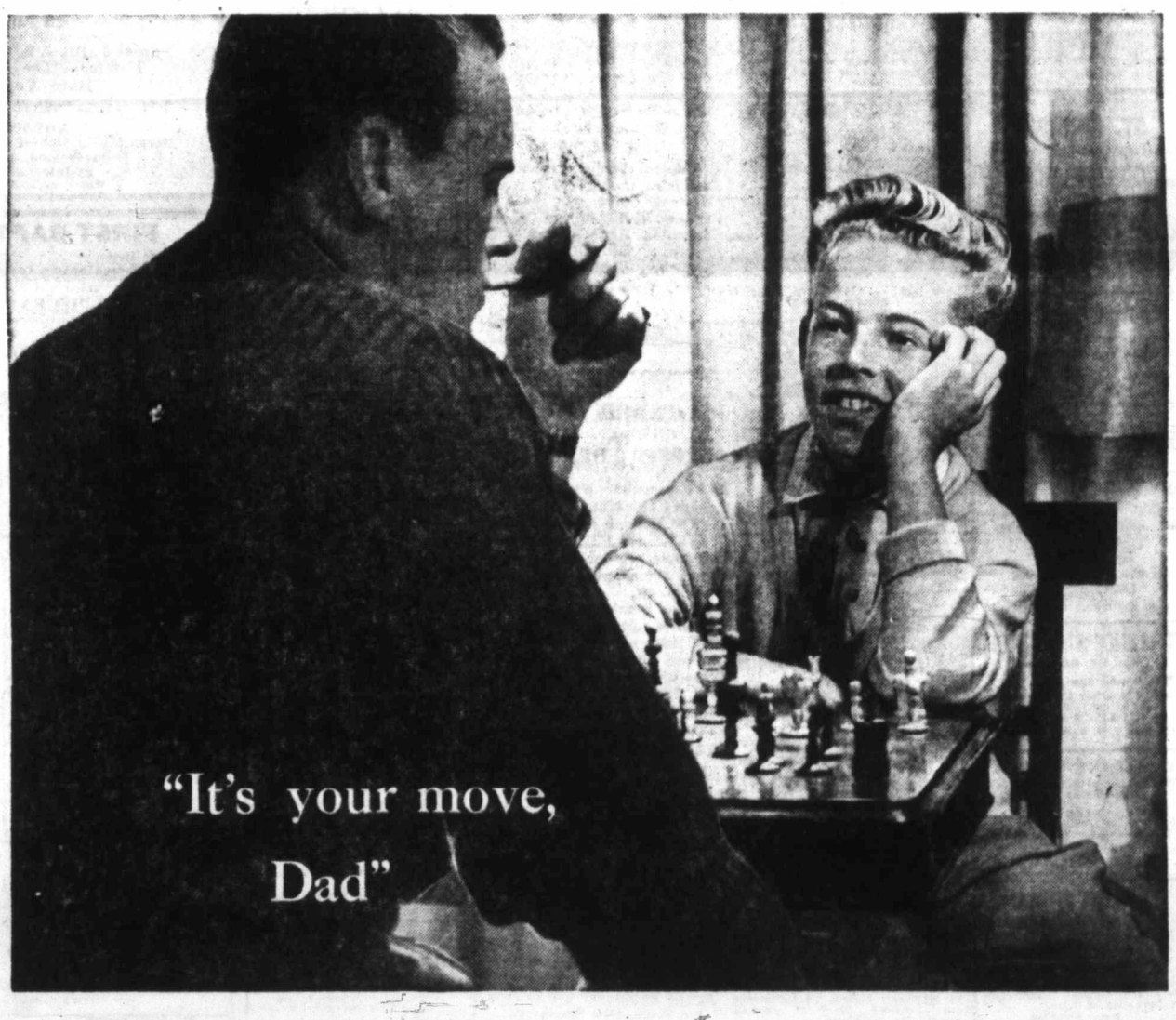

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